

C A M P A I G N F O R ACCOUNTABILITY

January 28, 2019

By Email: MDHHS-FOIA@michigan.gov

Michigan Department of Health and Human Services
Attn: FOIA Coordinator
Bureau of Legal Affairs
PO Box 30195
Lansing, Michigan 48909

Re: Michigan Freedom of Information Act Request

Dear Sir or Madam:

Campaign for Accountability (“CfA”) makes this request for public records, regardless of format, medium, or physical characteristics, and including electronic records and information, audiotapes, videotapes and photographs, pursuant to Mich. Comp. Laws § 15.231 et seq.

Specifically, CfA seeks copies of all Audit Status Notification Letters, Audit Exemption Notices, and Financial Statement Audits submitted to the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, or its predecessor, the Michigan Department of Community Health (collectively “Departments”), by Real Alternatives regarding Real Alternatives’ contracts with the state under the Pregnancy and Parenting Support Services Program. This request is for records from January 1, 2014 to present.

By way of background, Real Alternatives is the sole recipient of three consecutive grant agreements with the Departments for the purpose of monitoring the Michigan Pregnancy and Parenting Support Services Program. Part II Section I(G)(1)(c) of the first grant agreement entered into by Real Alternatives and the Departments, signed in December 2013, states:

Contractors exempt from the Single Audit and Financial Related Audit requirements that receive \$500,000 or more in total funding from the Department in State and Federal grant funding must submit to the Department a Financial Statement Audit... if the audit includes disclosures that may negatively impact MDCH-funded programs including, but not limited to fraud, going concern uncertainties, financial statement misstatements, and violations of contract and grant provisions.¹

Part II Section I(G)(1)(d) of the same grant agreement states:

Contractors exempt from the Single Audit, Financial Related Audit and Financial Statement Audit requirements... must submit an Audit Status Notification Letter that certifies these exceptions.²

¹ 2014 Grant Agreement Between Michigan Department of Community Health and Real Alternatives for Michigan Pregnancy and Parenting Support Services Program, Contract No. 20142043 (Dec. 16, 2013).

² *Id.*

The second and third grant agreements entered into by Real Alternatives and the Departments, signed December 6, 2017 and September 17, 2019, respectively, include similar requirements.³


If it is your position that any portion of the records requested is exempt from disclosure pursuant to Mich. Comp. Laws § 15.243, please provide a written notice indicating the basis for that determination. Mich. Comp. Laws § 15.235(5). If a requested record contains material that is exempt from disclosure as well as material that is not exempt, please produce the portions of the record that are not exempt. Mich. Comp. Laws § 15.244.

CfA is a non-profit organization and seeks the requested information primarily to benefit the general public. Furnishing copies of these records will allow CfA to inform and educate the public about state funding received by a private organization. Accordingly, CfA requests that the information be provided without charge. Mich. Comp. Laws § 15.234(2). If a fee waiver is not available, please inform me if the cost will exceed \$200.

Please respond to this request within 5 business days of receipt, as required by Mich. Comp. Laws § 15.235(2). If possible, please email the records to me at ahuling@campaignforaccountability.org. If the records are mailed, please send them to: Campaign for Accountability, 611 Pennsylvania Ave S.E., #337, Washington, D.C. 20003.

If you are unable to meet this statutory mandate, foresee any problems in releasing the requested records in whole or in part, or have any questions about this request, please contact me at 202-780-5750. Finally, I welcome the opportunity to discuss with you whether and to what extent this request can be narrowed or modified to better enable the Department of Health and Human Services to process it. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Alice C.C. Huling".

Alice C.C. Huling
Counsel

³ See 2018 Grant Agreement Between Michigan Department of Health and Human Services and Real Alternatives for Pregnancy and Parenting Support Services Program, Part II § I(G)(1-2), Contract No. E20182832 (Dec. 6, 2017); see also 2019 Grant Agreement Between Michigan Department of Health and Human Services and Real Alternatives for Pregnancy and Parenting Support Services Program, Part II § I(G)(1-2), Contract No. E20192416 (Sept. 17, 2018).